

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-8 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-3 and 5-7 are amended; and claims 4 and 9-10 are canceled. Support for amendment to the claims is found at least in the original claims and specification. No new matter is added by this amendment. In view of at least the following, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 4-7, 9 and 10 are allowable if rewritten to overcome 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph rejections. Because the claims overcome the §112, second paragraph rejection, as discussed below, claims 4-7 are in condition for allowance.

II. 35 U.S.C. §112

The Office Action rejects claims 1-10 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claim 1, as amended, properly distinguishes the preamble of the claim from the body and recites a definition for the term "large diameter" such that the metes and bounds of the term is sufficiently ascertainable. Furthermore, claim 1 has proper antecedent basis for the terms front end, outbound strand, rear end and return strand.

Claim 3, as amended, properly distinguishes the outbound and return strand of the chain as referred to in claim 1 from the entry and exit points of the transverse drawing system as referred to in claim 3.

Based on the cancellation of claims 4, 9 and 10 any objections referring to those claims are moot.

Claim 5, as amended, is sufficiently clear and it is ascertainable that the term "sprocket" refers to the drive sprocket that is referenced in the preceding claims.

Claim 6, as amended, gives proper antecedent basis to the term output shaft.

Claim 7, as amended, removes the term "relatively small size" so as to render the claim definite and ascertainable.

Withdrawal of the §112, second paragraph rejections is respectfully requested.

III. 35 U.S.C. §102/§103

The Office Action rejects claims 1 and 3 under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,255,419 to Stanislaw et al. (hereinafter "Stanislaw"). Claim 1 is further rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 4,497,096 to Richter et al. (hereinafter "Richter"). Furthermore, claims 2 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Stanislaw. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant respectfully submits that amended claim 1, which incorporates claim 4 that was previously noted as allowable, is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejections to claim 1 is respectfully requested.

Claims 2, 3 and 5-8 variously depend from independent claim 1. The cited references fail to render amended claim 1 unpatentable, as such Applicant respectfully submits claims 2, 3 and 5-8 are patentable for at least the same reason claim 1 is patentable, as well as for the additional features they recite.

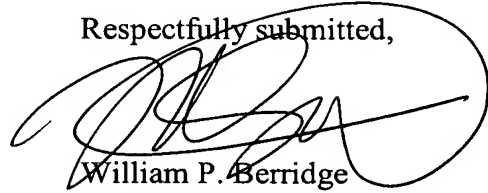
Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that rejection of dependent claims 2, 3 and 5-8 be withdrawn.

IV. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-3 and 5-8 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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